

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2218
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HIV/AIDS
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the report of the Department of Women and Child Development more than one lakh children in the country are suffering from HIV/AIDS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) - Yes, Sir. The Report entitled 'India - First Periodic Report, 2001' prepared by the Department of Women & Child Development for the Convention on the Rights of the Child at page 183 has reported the estimated number of children living with HIV/AIDS in the country as more than one lakh. State-wise break up of the number of children living with HIV/AIDS is not indicated in the said report.

(c) In order to prevent transmission of HIV from an infected mother to her child, Government of India is in the process of up-scaling prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT) programme. The programme has already covered 74 medical colleges and 15 district hospitals in six high prevalence States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu.

Besides, the Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:

- Preventive interventions for high risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, information education and communication (IEC) and awareness building among adolescents.
- Provision of low cost care and support services through community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Capacity building in respect of technical and managerial skills for programme implementation through surveillance, training, monitoring and evaluation, technical resource groups, operational research and programme management